



# CITY OF HARRISONBURG CITY MANAGER

409 SOUTH MAIN STREET, HARRISONBURG, VA 22801  
OFFICE (540) 432-7701 • FAX (540) 432-7778

TO: Ande Banks, City Manager

FROM: Chris Brown, City Attorney, Mike Collins, Director of Public Utilities, David Gray, Engineering Manager

DATE: May 3, 2023

RE: Amendments to Section 7-2-5- Fire suppression systems (now Sprinkler systems generally)

**Summary:** The proposed amendments to Section 7-2-5 update the language used in the current ordinance, clarify the responsibilities associated with the installation and maintenance costs of fire suppression systems, and make the installation of fire suppression systems on a parcel occupied by more than one building subject to the new proposed Section 7-2-10.

**Background:** The proposed amendments to Section 7-2-5 clarifies that all equipment and labor associated with the installation of fire suppression systems (including sprinklers and standpipes) are the responsibility of the customer. The exception is the meter, which is provided by the City. The cost of the meter and its installation by Public Utilities employees is paid by the customer. The customer is responsible for the maintenance of the fire suppression system.

The proposed amendments incorporate the proposed restated Section 7-2-10 and will allow a single fire suppression system to be used for multiple buildings on a single lot if the requirements of Section 7-2-10 are met.

The proposed amendments to Section 7-2-5 maintain the current section's prohibition of unauthorized connections to a fire suppression system, and continues to provide for no charge for water used for fire suppression purposes.

**Key Issues:** Update language used in Section 7-2-5, clarify the responsibility for the installation and maintenance of fire suppression systems, and incorporate the proposed restated Section 7-2-10.

**Environmental Impact:** none

**Fiscal Impact:** Minimal

**Prior Actions:** Adoption of current Section 7-2-5.



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**Alternatives:**

- (a) Adopt the ordinance as presented; or
- (B) Adopt the ordinance with additional changes; or
- (C) Decline to adopt the ordinance

**Community Engagement:** None

**Recommendation:** Staff recommends approval of the proposed amendments.

**Attachments:**

- 1) Amended ordinance
- 2) Current ordinance

**Review:**

*The initiating Department Director will place in Legistar, in sequence of transmittal, the names of each department that must initial their review in order for this item to be placed on the City Council agenda. The completion of review only addresses the readiness of the issue for Council consideration. This does not address the recommendation for approval or denial of the issue.*

